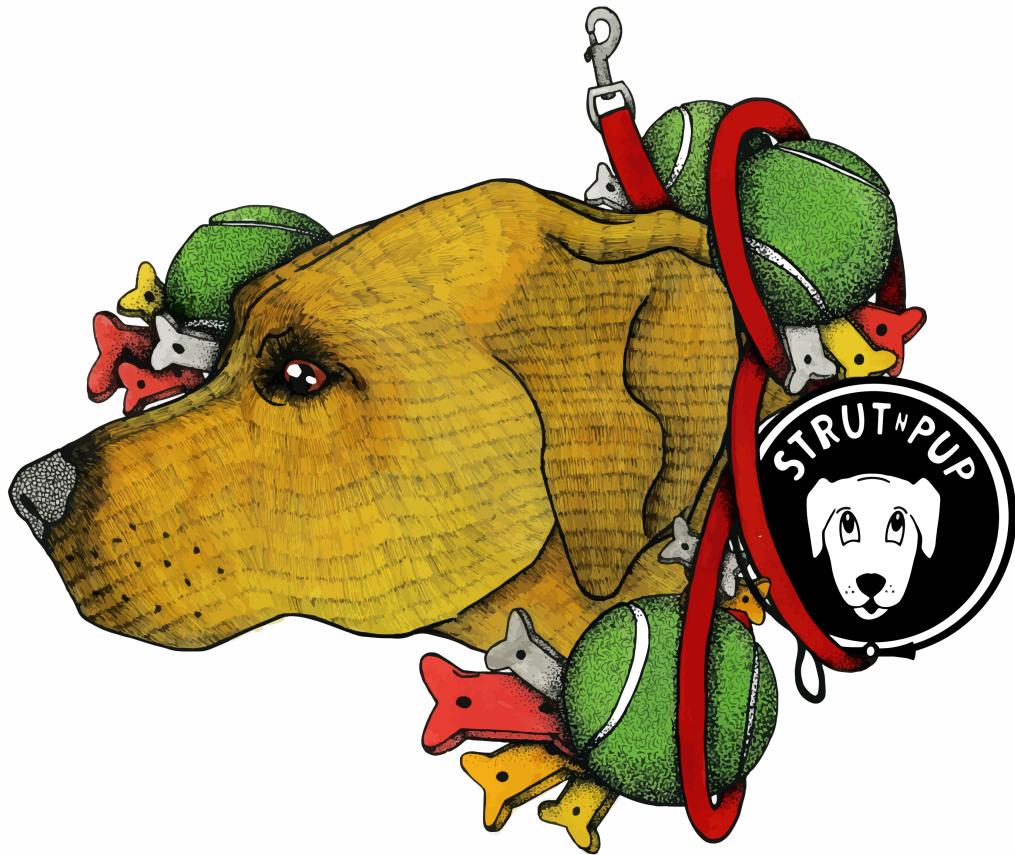


ARTICLE 31 ZONING BYLAW AMENDMENT/INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT ANIMAL DAYCARE USE

Submitted by Kristin Anderson, Precinct 11



ARLINGTON, MA TOWN MEETING

AMENDING THE INDUSTRIAL ZONE FOR DOGGY DAYCARES

MAY 3, 2023

DARIA PANNESI
STRUTNPUP LLC
1497 Mass Ave, Arlington, MA 02476

Good evening Town Hall Meeting Members. Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

My name is Daria Pannesi and I reside at 1497 Mass Ave in Arlington.

I am here as a nearly 30-year resident of Arlington and as the Owner and Founder of a local dog walking, pet sitting and dog training business, called StrutnPup LLC.

Over the past decade, I have been steadily growing and expanding StrutnPup to over 300 dogs throughout Arlington, Belmont, Lexington, Winchester and Medford. Since the pandemic we've doubled our staff and we are now approaching our goal of 20 employees by the end of the year.

During the pandemic, families everywhere acquired more dogs than ever before. When I started StrutnPup, there were approximately 1,900 dogs in the Arlington community. According to the Town Clerk's Department there were nearly 3,000 dogs registered in 2022. The need for a reputable and reliable doggy daycare is at its greatest than ever before as Arlington residents are now going back to the office.

After multiple attempts to start a business in Arlington, I was gutted when I had to abandon my dreams of opening a daycare here. Due to the current zoning laws, we were forced to explore alternative options in other communities- like Saugus, Tewksbury, Acton and Southboro.

One of our attempts to open here was a location off of Dudley Street in the Industrial Zone. A 10,000 square foot warehouse that we were going to transform into a daycare. It was perfectly situated away from any residential area. The landlord was so excited to see another type of business coming into what has become primarily an auto zone. With high hopes I worked with a local attorney, Bob Annese, who thought we *might* be able to secure a Special Permit, however to our

disappointment he reported back that this could not be done due to the zoning issues. After months of planning and negotiating, with all parties eager and ready, we had to walk away.

Arlington has become such a vibrant and diverse community over the years. I have seen the transformation firsthand and I love being a part of its fabric. So why is it that a small, local business with a proven track record, trained staff, and eager clientele have been pushed out from the community we service and live in? We are willing to comply with any regulations needed, however, we are restrained by red tape.

I really hope that we are able to change the law to bring in services that are in dire need as well as bring in more local jobs to the area boosting its economy and value.

We have supported and invested into this community through events like “Bark for Life Cancer Relay” walk, the Recreation Department’s “Dog Days of Summer at the Rez,” the “Purple Puppy Promenade for Alzheimer’s,” and donated to “Save A Dog” shelter where two of our staff regularly volunteer.

We submit to this group about 65 letters and statements from our current clients. These statements were prepared in less than 12 hours before this zoning hearing. The overwhelming support and the rapid call to action we witnessed from our client’s has been humbling and I could not be prouder of what my team and I have created.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Daria Pannesi
Chief Tail Wagger
StrutnPup LLC
617-800-4710

Client Endorsements

Hi Daria,

I wish I could be at the Redevelopment Zone meeting tonight to support your efforts to open a Doggy Day Care in the industrial zone. So many of us depend on you to keep our dogs (important family members!) safe, healthy, and happy. You're a credit to Arlington ... and a business like this would surely bring in so many folks, like me, from the surrounding towns.

I hope the folks who make this decision recognize that a Doggy Day Care is badly needed and you are perfectly situated to operate it.

Good luck!

Nancy Linde (and Gatsby)
Belmont, MA

Daria and her StrutnPup team are not your ordinary doggie daycare business. They are certified trained professionals who deeply care about the animals in their care. They also know that training dog owners is of utmost importance. Dogs learn how to behave and remain under the control of their owners.

I cannot say enough about Daria and her team. I'm a lifelong dog owner so I know high quality care when I see it. My rescue dog is a far better dog because of her training and care by StrutnPup.

Sincerely,
Susan Treadway (and Piper)
Lexington
617-970-3391 mobile

As an Arlington dog (and home) owner I strongly support Ms. Pannesi's attempt to open a dog day care in Arlington - including necessary alterations to current zoning regulations. I have utilized Ms. Pannesi's existing services for approximately two years - and she runs a highly professional organization with a wonderful staff. She is an advocate for Arlington dogs and their owners and giving her the ability to open a dog day care and boarding facility would be a wonderful addition to the Arlington dog world. I am one of the many Arlington residents who enlarged their family with a dog during the pandemic and existing day cares/ boarding facilities (including those in neighboring towns) all have long wait list or subscribed to antiquated training methodologies. Ms. Pannesi's facility would be a great addition to the Arlington dog community and demonstrate continued support to a successful Arlington entrepreneur.

Jennifer M Campbell (and Squiggy)
Arlington

Arlington has long needed another and larger dog day care in town. At least one business has attempted to locate in town and been unsuccessful due to restrictive zoning and lack of suitably sized space in business zoned areas. Many landlords do not wish to locate a dog day care in a business district due to fear of noise, traffic, parking, proximity to restaurants or other businesses that they view as incompatible with animals, or other reasons. Industrial zoned areas generally offer larger size and more suitable type space for a dog day care business. In addition, noise, traffic, and proximity to incompatible businesses is not a factor in an industrial area. Drop off and pick up traffic would not interfere with other businesses and staff parking would be readily available. Other cities, such as Seattle, WA, only recently changed their zoning to allow dog day care businesses to locate in areas other than industrial zoned.

Ericka B. Gray | *she/her*
Arlington, MA 02474
617.921.2506 Cell

To Whom It May Concern,

Letter to the Town Hall – Arlington, MA – May 3, 2023

We are writing today in support of dog care facilities in the Arlington Industrial Zone. Having a safe and reliable option for dogs in this area is an important support for working families. Legal and licensed options for daycare are few and far between in our community. For public safety and the safety of our pets, it would be much preferable to have a regulated and licensed place for our dogs, as opposed to the loose (and somewhat chaotic, frankly) network of home providers that are currently in operation.

We would also like to voice our support for Daria Pannesi, owner of StrutnPup, in particular--noting her years of expertise and the professionalism and high standards with which she runs her business. Her assessment and opinion is one that should be trusted and considered when weighing this issue. We have the utmost confidence in Daria (and her team) to make a considered response focused on the best interest of families and dogs in the area.

Thank you,
Ellen and Michael Samra (and Winston)
Lexington

Hello Daria & the S & P Team-

We are very interested in the opportunity for dog daycare and boarding in the industrial zone in Arlington. We have seen the huge increase in dog ownership in town and, in addition to our own pet needs, hear from others about wanting top quality care like yours for our pups.

We will be watching closely to see how we can support this measure to change the regulations so that businesses like yours can grow in our town. Your care for our dog is THE BEST and we would like more options available for doggy daycare and boarding.

Thank you for this opportunity to share our opinion and support on this matter.

Best regards,
Nicole & Conor Hanover (and Dougal)
27 Heard Rd
Arlington

Hello!

We support changing the zoning law to allow for doggy daycare in Arlington. It is incredibly difficult to find this service locally (most are full and not taking new clients) so the demand exists. And we personally think that Daria and Strut N Pup are the right people to take this on in Arlington! We trust them and the care they provide for dogs and fur families.

We hope you consider changing this zoning law to meet the modern needs of local citizens.

Thank you,
The Kohas (and Baxter)
Lexington

Hi Daria,
I absolutely support changing zoning laws to apply for a doggy daycare space in Arlington. This town is very dog friendly and has so many dogs. I have had 2 neighbors within 2 houses talk to me about their need for dog daycare/walking services. (You were actually able to help one of the families out...sweet Lilly!) There have been many businesses that at first allowed work from home and then changed their minds, creating an even greater need for doggy daycare. I have heard nice things about Go Play, but the space looks minuscule and does not seem large enough for medium or large sized dogs.

Best,
Wendi Hale (and Brock)
Arlington

As a long time dog owner, I have noticed that there are limited resources in Arlington in terms of doggy daycare and boarding facilities. I think allowing such businesses to expand in Industrial zones would be a very positive addition.

Letter to the Town Hall – Arlington, MA – May 3, 2023

Otherwise it forces Arlington dog owners to look at neighboring towns and communities for such resources and services when there is in fact space for such businesses to exist here.

Hope that helps a bit!

-Lisa Berasi (and Lula)
Arlington

Hello,

I'm writing to express my support for zoning changes that will allow for doggy daycare to be allowed within Industrial Zones in Arlington. This will allow local business to grow and thrive, while providing a much-needed service to the community. Without these changes, we risk losing essential services and hurting local-owned businesses.

Sincerely,
Daniel Brownell (and Bowie)
precinct 18.
Arlington

Hi Daria,

Good luck tonight in town meeting. I'm a member of town meeting in Lexington so I know how hard it is to change the zoning laws, but I really do think a doggy daycare space would be a great business to have to service clients in the Arlington area. My little Ruby loves Gisella and it makes me feel good to know there might be a place for her to go that is nearby where she will be treated with love, attention and kindness.

Thanks for all you do and good luck tonight!

Melanie Thompson (and Ruby)
Lexington

Arlington suffers from a lack of dog daycare options. I support changing the town zoning bylaws to allow for dog daycare and/or boarding in industrial zones. In fact, that is the best zone for a dog daycare since the noise and traffic will not impede upon a residential or commercial area. Also, dog owners who use dog daycare services are more likely to have pets that are well-behaved and socialized, which can lead to a decrease in dog-related issues in the town such as barking, aggression, and accidents. This can improve the overall safety and quality of life for both pet owners and non-pet owners in the community. Additionally, a well-established doggie daycare can attract pet owners from neighboring towns, bringing in more business and revenue to the town.

Sincerely,
Angela Christiana
Dog owner
--
Angela Christiana (and Mochi)
Arlington
617-314-2239 (mobile)

Daria-

I fully support your efforts to bring a dog daycare facility to Arlington located in the Industrial Zone. It is a much needed service in the town as there is not currently an option. I would rather support and invest in a local dog daycare company such as yours rather than one in of the surrounding towns, not to mention how convenient it would be to have an option in Arlington.

Best,
Mike Ginns (and Iggy)
Arlington

Letter to the Town Hall – Arlington, MA – May 3, 2023

Arlington is a dog town. We need more, not fewer, doggy day care facilities. Locating such a facility in an industrial zoned area seems an optimal zoning/use match for this unmet need. Please support StrutnPup's efforts to do so.

Good luck, Daria!

John Fitzpatrick (and Benny)
Fox Meadow Lane
Arlington

Dear Daria--

OF COURSE WE NEED DOGGIE DAYCARE IN ARLINGTON! Dogs are everywhere you go in Arlington. The town must vote to support a business that would respond to the needs of the many dog owners in town. Strutin' Pup does so in a professional, caring way. You all are the best, seriously.

The old laws were not made with our current needs in mind.

We hope that the Town Hall vote will support the appeal on Article 31.

We are pulling for you!

Best, Susan, Steve, and William

--

Susan Kline
Department of Learning Resources
she, her, hers
Arlington

Hi Daria,

I am so happy to hear you are trying to open a doggy daycare. We absolutely need another dedicated facility like this in Arlington. Since COVID there have been so many more pups in the neighborhood that need care during the day, as people are now back in office after being WFH for so long.

I love using your services for play dates and walks but a daycare option would be a game changer for your clients and your business. Especially on days where it's not safe for Strutters to be out walking because of weather or not ideal conditions for our dogs to be walking in such as extreme heat. A daycare would be an excellent alternative option for dog owners and I am in full support. It would bring such value to Arlington as a community.

I hope this happens!! Good Luck!

Christina (and Sloanie)
Marathon Street, Arlington

Hi Daria,

Good luck at the meeting tonight. I'm writing in support of Strutnpup opening a doggy daycare in Arlington. As a longtime trusted provider of in home pet care and dog walking in Arlington, I believe the addition of a physical boarding and daycare facility would be amazing and have no doubt that you and your team would run it with the utmost care and professionalism.

All best,

Tisha (and Hazel)

Arlington desperately needs a doggie daycare facility - for two working adults shuffling busy work and travel schedules, adult and child care responsibilities and responsible dog ownership, it would be greatly helpful to have a proper facility rather than relying solely on piecemeal strategies of hiring friends, neighbors, vet technicians and whoever is available when needs arise.

We've been working with Daria's StrutnPup for 18 months now and she maintains the highest quality staff who truly love the dogs and provide the highest quality service and care. She has always been there for us (and our puppy) and a proper daycare would be a huge benefit to me and others in our neighborhood.

Julie Jalelian & Jim Jolley (and Kibo)
Arlington

Hello Daria,

Letter to the Town Hall – Arlington, MA – May 3, 2023

Happy to support your efforts.

Our family has worked with Daria and her Strutnpup team for several years in caring for our dog. They are a very professional, responsible and caring team. The services they provide are highly valuable to pet owners and the ability to expand would be immensely helpful. Please consider changing the current zoning law in the industrial zone to allow for this local business to grow. I have no doubt this would be a well run space supporting Arlington citizens and their pets.

Sarah (and Jester)

Good luck tonight! Wish we could be there in person.

Board Members,

It has been a pleasure working with Daria Pannesi and her team with Strut N Pup. Daria runs an well organized, thoroughly communicative, and community centered business which is loved by clients and their humans alike. Aside from hosting local charity events through the year to encourage fellowship and community building, Daria and team are fantastic examples for dog owners across town. They are noise/waste conscious and take precautions to keep pups safe in all weather and play situations. I have consistently seen this first class service week after week. I can only image how wonderful they would be as neighbors. Let's keep our dog care dollars in town and support a proven well managed Arlington treasure.

Bailey and Kathryn Colahan (and Gus)
600 Summer St
Arlington

Strut n Pup is the only service we trust to take care of our pup while we are away, and Daria and her team are top notch. Adding a high quality doggie daycare and boarding facility would be a tremendous asset to the Arlington dog/dog-owner community. Having more opportunities for pups to socialize safely will only benefit the broader dog community.

Kat Depardieu and Eric Garofano
Arlington residents
(And Izzie's parents)

As an Arlington resident of 20+ years, I support a change in the zoning law to permit for dog care business in industrial zones. The spike in dog ownership in our town has created a challenge for residents who struggle to find boarding or daycare: many existing pet services no longer accept new clients. As more and more people with dogs are asked to return to the office, this problem will get worse.

Also, let's not deter dog business from our town when they could help owners of reactive dogs. I would rather see dogs receive training or special attention in a proper, safe space if they are unfit for dog parks or other public areas.

While business zones do permit daycare, I understand why owners of dog services would require an industrial space: these areas are likely to have more room, access to outdoor space, and be further away from residential areas—which would be a relief for neighbors who would have to endure constant barking.

Please reconsider the zoning laws and how they affect the residents—both dog owners and non-owners alike!

Kim and Jeff Paradiso (and Ripley)
Arlington

I have known Daria and the Strut n Pup team for over 10 years, and they have cared for each of the 3 dogs that we've had in that time. They are by far the best team we've ever worked with, and I fully trust them with the care of our dogs in any situation.

As a lifetime dog owner, I understand that dog ownership heavily influences personal choices in jobs, housing, and vacations. A daycare/boarding service like Daria's would be invaluable to many of the dog owners in Arlington who need support when they cannot be home to care for their pets. I cannot fully express the peace of mind that comes with knowing that Daria and her team are taking care of my dogs when my family is away, and having a daycare service would be a huge benefit for dog owners who need safe, reliable options for their dogs to play, socialize, and just generally be cared for during the day. In my opinion a doggy day care would undoubtedly lead to happier, less stressed owners and pets in Arlington and beyond.

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I hope that the zoning laws in Arlington can be expanded to allow much-needed doggy day care space, especially for the Strut n Pup team. For further information please contact me at 617 710-9965 or cathy7480@gmail.com.

Cathy Suarez (and Ziggy and Nessa)
Arlington

Daria has been an important support to our family since we moved to Arlington. Her company has made it possible for our furry family members to be safe and well cared for. Something that vastly improves our quality of life. Given how difficult it is to find appropriate care for our pets (including recent shut downs of training and care facilities due to animal abuse) having a known, ethical, caring employer such as Daria's StrutnPup would be a boon to our community.

Strut and Pup is an essential part of our experience of Arlington as a community. Since we moved here we have been fortunate to work with Daria and her outstanding team to support our dogs and our family. Our community could greatly benefit from Daria applying her caring, thoughtful, responsible, and informed ways to a doggy care center.

Carrie and David Bricklin-Small
Arlington (and Otto and Abbie)

As residents of Arlington since 2019, my husband and I are very much in support of Daria Pannesi's proposed plan to open a doggy daycare space. Daria and the team she has assembled are truly fantastic and they are all adding so much value to the community. We would not only patronize this new space, but we would also be so grateful to have it as a resource in the community.

James and Kristen Atwood (and Birdie)
36 Hopkins Rd
Arlington, MA 02476

As a Winchester resident, I am not sure that my opinion will hold much sway with the Arlington redevelopment board. However, as a client of StrutnPup can attest to the fact that this is a very well run company that serves the residents of Arlington and surrounding towns with extreme professionalism and care. The service they provide is greatly needed, and they are executing at the highest level among their peers.

I wish you all the best tonight and hope the result turns out well.

-Barry & Susan (and Chloe)
Winchester

I just wanted to comment in favor of article 31.

I think this would be a great benefit to the town.

Best Regards
Les Woodard (and Ciaran)
13 Cottage Ave #1R

Arlington has so many dog owners and a desperate need for several quality doggy day cares to be able to keep up with the demand. Only having 1 or 2 options is not even close to enough. Clients are being put on waitlists or forced to bring their business to other nearby towns. That is revenue lost to Arlington.

Strutnup being able to supply a high quality doggy daycare would be such an amazing addition to Arlington's business offering. They already have a large clientele with that use their dog walking and pet sitting services but are being asked several times a month about day care options. It is taking business away from Arlington when they have to refer clients to another town.

Rebecca Wilson (and Quincy)
Arlington

Letter to the Town Hall – Arlington, MA – May 3, 2023

Dear Members of the Arlington Redevelopment Board,

We are writing to support the change in zoning laws to allow animal daycares in the Industrial Zone, as there is an *urgent need* for more dog daycares in Arlington. We are further writing in support of Daria Pannesi's (a/k/a "Strut-N-Pup, LLC") application to open a dog daycare in Arlington, which Arlington denied due to this law.

As you are likely aware, many families adopted dogs while working from home during the pandemic. This sharp increase in dogs in the area resulted in a well-documented vet shortage—and since businesses have mandated a return—a dog daycare shortage. Many families currently lack adequate care as local daycares, such as CrateEscape in Belmont and GoPlay in Arlington, cannot meet this increased need due to no fault of their own. As more businesses mandate returns to the office in 2023, the need for safe and reliable daycare options will continue to rise and Arlington residents will continue to struggle to find daycares.

We would like to share our story for context as we are one of these families struggling to find daycare because of the lack of available daycares in Arlington. Despite being on waiting lists for local daycares for several months, we have not secured a spot. Thus, our only option is to use a daycare in Malden, as this daycare is the closest option with availability that is conducive to our commute into Boston. Attending a daycare in Malden instead of a daycare in Arlington has several negative impacts on our lives and the greater Arlington community. First, it requires us to drive to work in Boston so that we can drop off our dog in Malden when we normally would take public transport. Driving to work every day contributes to the pollution in the Greater Boston Area and global warming—something that Arlington actively tries to combat by adopting several other green policies. On a personal level, we have to leave our house earlier in the morning as our commute now takes over an hour and we pay a high cost of over thirty dollars a day for parking in Boston. A daycare in Arlington would resolve all these concerns. With more local facilities, we could walk to daycare and then take the bus to work, an option that is environmentally conscious and supports Arlington's goal of combatting global warming. On a personal level, this would save time commuting and save over thirty dollars per day on parking. Separately, by having to travel to Malden to attend daycare, we are unable to support fantastic local Arlington businesses.

Daria and Strut-N-Pup are seeking to provide a solution to this critical need affecting many Arlington residents by establishing a daycare in Arlington and Arlington has actively prevented them from doing so, citing this antiquated zoning law. We have been customers of Strut-N-Pup for almost two years for pet sitting and dog walking. Daria and her team are nothing short of wonderful. Not only are they experienced small business professionals, but they are also passionate about pet care, exuding kindness and devotion to every pet they serve. For example, when providing pet-sitting services, Strut-N-Pup employees are responsive, responsible, and take great care of our pets and our home, often leaving our home cleaner than we do. Any daycare run by Strut-N-Pup would operate in a similar manner: the facility would be clean and welcoming and the pets would be in a loving environment. A Strut-N-Pup daycare is the kind of business Arlington needs because Strut-N-Pup represents what Arlington stands for—a compassionate small business, focused on diversity, and devoted to the Arlington community and the well-being of their customers.

We appreciate Arlington's concerns regarding dog daycares, and we would like to reassure you that any daycare established and operated by Daria and her team at Strut-N-Pup *would positively contribute* to the safety and welfare of our community. There is a serious need for dog daycares in Arlington, and Strut-N-Pup—a responsible, compassionate, woman-owned small business—is seeking to provide a solution. We urge you to reconsider Article 31 to permit dog daycares in Industrial Zones and approve Daria's application to establish a daycare in Arlington.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions. You can reach us at annasagerogoff@gmail.com or 908-868-4266.

Sincerely,
Annie and Dan Jordan (Charlie, Eli & Luna)

StrutnPup is an established Arlington business that would serve the community even more if they expanded into a doggy daycare space in the Industrial Zone. As an Arlington resident and StrutnPup client, I want to support a local business (owned and operated by knowledgeable and reliable professionals) who are committed to giving the best training and supervision to pets in their care.

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Susan Zwick (and Riley)
Arlington - Mobile: 617-710-8096

I am 100% on board with such a wonderful idea for doggy daycare/boarding in Arlington! It's something we definitely need and would love as dog owners. And if my dog was a good match for daycare I would absolutely leave her with your services!

Piper Annese (and Ellie)
Arlington
781-354-4191

Hello,

My name is Ross Cole and as a resident of Arlington and customer of Strutnpup it would be incredibly beneficial to turn wasted industrial space into a safe area for dogs. The zoning laws are outdated and there are numerous examples of other towns that's have done the same, such as Belmont and Charlestown.

Dog daycare is in high demand and there are not enough local options at this time. Expanding capacity and allowing more dogs a safe place to spend their days would benefit everyone in the community.

Thank you,
Ross Cole (and Edd)
Arlington

Writing to support the amazing effort to change the zoning laws so that Strut n puppy can open a much needed doggy daycare and boarding service for Arlington families!

Good luck and please let me know how else I can lend support!

Thanks,

Sarah (and Poppy)

To Whom it May Concern:

We are very happy clients of StrutNPup, and would like to voice our support for a change in the zoning laws that would allow a doggy daycare. Although we live in Belmont, we would absolutely send our dog to day care in Arlington! Options are very limited for this service, and we would be happy to have a high-quality place to send our dog! Please consider making this change for all of the fur families in Arlington and surrounding communities.

Best regards,
Kathy Anderson (and Rigo)
Belmont, MA

To the Arlington Redevelopment Board,

Please approve new zoning laws in Arlington to allow for doggy daycare space in the Industrial Zone. The current ban is a relic of the past and does not reflect the current culture and needs of the town.

Best regards,

Cutler Cleveland (and Ziggy)
Karen Lefkowitz
68 Oxford Street
Arlington, MA 02474

Dear StrutnPup and All Who this may Concern:

I am strongly in support of a dog daycare program in Arlington MA as proposed by StrutnPup. Their company adds a much needed service to more families than you can imagine. They are company we desperately need and want to have in our communities. I urge you to give them your full support.

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Most Sincerely,
Penny Liu, MD (and Maurice)
Lexington

To whom it may concern,

I support changing legislation to allow doggy daycares and boarding facilities in Arlington. This would provide a great service to the community.

Sincerely,

Nancy Goldberg (and Milo)
Lexington

To whom it may concern,

As a client of Daria and StrutnPup for about 1 yr now, we are supportive of the request to allow for a daycare and boarding facility. Our dog is well cared for by StrutnPup and it would be so great to have additional options for their facility to have a daycare space and a boarding location. We love StrutnPup and they take awesome care of our furry family member. The town should approve her request.

Thank you,
Aileen Rubio (and Luna)
Lexington

Please give every consideration to Daria Pannesi's proposal for a change in zoning laws in Arlington that would allow for a doggie daycare/boarding facility to open.

I have been a client of Strut n Pup for over a year now and have been very pleased with their level of responsibility and professionalism.

A YES vote in favor of her proposal would be a huge win for Arlington AND people who want their companion animals to have the best care around.

Cindy Sragg (and Big Papi, Charlie and Roger)
Belmont

We are in favor of changing the zoning laws!

We believe that doggie daycare businesses should be allowed in the Industrial Zone. There is a huge need in Arlington -- waitlists for current daycare facilities both in and out of town can be year-long waits! Also, it seems these businesses are even better suited to the industrial zone than to the business district where they are already allowed. As a current dog walking and pet sitting client of Strut n Pup, we are confident that Daria and her team would be a welcome daycare addition to Arlington!

Keri Green & Adam Bush (and Tori)
Webster Street
Arlington

We support the change in the law to provide for doggy day care in Arlington. Daria Pannesi, owner of StrutnPup, has run a fabulous, responsible, and growing dog walking and pet sitting business for many years. It is very difficult to find a reliable, responsible doggy daycare in Arlington, where there are a LOT of dogs and dog owners who want this service. And we couldn't find a better person to trust with this endeavor.

Mary Vlad
Paul Marotta (and Shelby)

I'm writing to wholeheartedly support a change to the Town zoning laws that would allow a doggy daycare to operate in the town Industrial Zone. We became first-time dog owners last year, and have quickly seen how important it is to young dogs to have places to socialize — not just to run around, but also to receive guidance from people *and* from other dogs about how to play and interact nicely and in a way that is not risky. This is exactly the kind of thing puppies and dogs could learn at a doggie daycare. Many of the complaints people have about dogs, such as barking or lunging at other dogs, are behaviors of not having had enough exposure to other dogs. It would be a benefit for the whole town if we could make available more places where families with dogs could receive this important form of

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training and support. Changing the zoning requirements also would make it possible for a new type of business to open and operate in the town, which can only make the town look even more appealing to others who may want to open businesses here. For these reasons and more, I wholeheartedly support Article 31.

Jennifer Cutraro (and Olie)
Stowecroft Road
Arlington

This town is in dire need for a reputable, dog-loving owner to open a dog daycare. I have trusted her and her team with 2 of my most prized possessions...my dogs.

Folks in towns all around us complain of lack of GOOD dog daycare.

With all the dogs that folks got over Covid there is now a need more than ever. Also, it helps out Arlington citizens who need a daycare close to where we live. This ia no-brainer to me. How about one less bank and 1 more dog daycare??

She is a trusted business woman and such an ideal candidate to open a small business here in town.

I fully support her and hope you make the right decision.

Best-

Kathryn Kilroy (and Emma)
Arlington

Hi Daria,

I am very supportive of changing the zoning laws to open a doggy daycare in Arlington. If I need daycare services, I drive to Waltham which is very inconvenient. I would much rather have this service in our own community.

I wish I could attend the meeting tonight but please pass along my support for this important zoning change.

Thank you.

Best regards,
Virginia Fitzgerald (and Indy)
15 Greenwood Rd
Arlington, MA 02474

Just wanted to write and say I am in full support of a Strut N' Pup doggie daycare. They provide excellent care of our dog and we would love the option for him to have a full day experience with other dogs! There are not enough options locally - with any dog daycare nearby being fully booked with no waiting list.

Katie Simmons (and Biscuit)
Arlington

As an Arlington resident, Arlington teacher, and Arlington dog mom, I am in full support of changing the zoning laws to allow for another doggy daycare. As a new pup parent, I quickly learned how much of a dog town Arlington is and how challenging it is to find daycare for a pup. Daria and her staff are so knowledgeable and wonderfully helpful and supportive as walkers, and I know if given the opportunity they would create an amazing and much needed daycare space in town.

Lynne Aftuck (and Poppy)
Arlington

StrutnPup and particularly Daria are extremely professional and the most well run dog care provider I have come across. I am never concerned about my dog's well-being when she is being cared for by the StrutnPup "Strutters" as every interaction is thoughtful and addresses my dogs' needs. The ability to have a day care center for dogs to have a safe and quality experience would be an incredible offering!

Best,
Rachel (and Scout)

Letter to the Town Hall – Arlington, MA – May 3, 2023

Lexington

There are so many dogs in Arlington whose owners work full time. Arlington desperately needs a doggy daycare so that our dogs can get some exercise and socialization while we're at work. Please consider allowing a doggy daycare in the industrial zone.

- Emily Menesale & Colm Murphy (and Scout)

To whom it may concern:

By way of this email I would like to express my full support for StrutnPup LLC to be able to open a doggy daycare in Arlington. Our community is in real need for such a service and I cannot think of a more appropriate reason to change zoning laws. In addition, I cannot think of a more professional, well run outfit than StrutNPup and Daria Pannesi to be responsible for taking on the task of creating this much needed resource for our community

I hope that you dispose of this application favorably

Sincerely,
Sameer (and Cheeni)

I'm writing to support Strutnpup's application for a doggie day care. Daria and her team are professionals and excellent with the dogs.

All my best
Joanne Greenfield (and Juno)
Lexington

I am in full support of changing the zoning laws to allow a much needed Doggie Day Care Center in Arlington. Daria Pannesi and her crew at Strut n Pup have provided stellar care for our mini Aussie and two cats for many years. They have been a valuable addition to the Arlington community - always responsible, caring, and sensitive to the needs of pet owners and the community. Expanded services are much needed in our area and I hope you will consider changing the zoning laws.

Betsy Roxby (and Blaze, Theo, Renzo and Skye)

31 Elmore Street
Arlington, MA 02476
617 872 9135

To whom it may concern,

We have been clients of StrutnPup for over 5 years.
Daria and her Strutters have proven to be very trustworthy and reliable.
To have a place locally that we trust for dogs would be wonderful.
There are quite a few dogs just in our neighborhood that use StrutnPup.
The strutters and Daria act with kindness

Sincerely,
Jane Youngren
Marianne Hanley
And of course Hoover
Arlington

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to support changing the zoning laws to permit doggy daycare and boarding services in Arlington.

Letter to the Town Hall – Arlington, MA – May 3, 2023

As a client of Strut N Pup for the past 10 years, I can attest that Daria Pannesi provides a valuable service to the town of Arlington and the surrounding communities. Daria and her professional, caring employees ensure our dogs are healthy, safe, and well-trained; this results in happy, balanced, and well-behaved dogs.

Many families adopted puppies during the COVID pandemic. Unfortunately, these puppies did not have the opportunity to learn proper socialization. As a result, many families now have anxious, overactive dogs who need to learn proper socialization with other dogs and humans. The value of a well-run doggie daycare owned by an experienced professional can not be understated.

Changing the zoning laws would benefit the community by providing a valuable service, keeping business within the community, and keeping the residents of Arlington safe.

Please contact me directly if I can provide any additional information.

Kind regards,
Michele Clarke (Bisou & Finn)
Lexington

Daria,

I am afraid we won't be able to make it to the meeting today, but you have our full support in getting Arlington to change the zoning laws. Every interaction with your organization has been phenomenal, and I know you would provide an excellent, high quality doggy day care which will be huge asset to the community and bring even more business to Arlington. Sending you all best wishes!

Helen Zarba and Family (and Summer)

Hi Daria,

I was so glad to see your email that this is in support of your business. I know we haven't had the opportunity to use your team, but we would absolutely love having a doggy daycare in Arlington that we could bring Gus and Rosie to. We are currently bringing them to daycare in Acton, as it is the only place without a waiting list in our general area. I want to support an Arlington business and especially a woman owned business. You have been so kind and welcoming to us and it would be great for it to be your business! This area needs a dog daycare and Arlington really needs to support the change in zoning laws to allow this. The current situation is not doing our town and small businesses any favors! Good luck tonight and you have our full support!

Kind regards,
Deanna Broderick (Gus and Rosie)

Hi Daria,

Thank you for letting us know about the Town meeting tonight. While we cannot support you in person, we wish you luck and these words of support.

We moved to Arlington in 2021 and adopted a pandemic puppy. Our goal is to train our pup to be a good canine citizen of Arlington. However, this requires Arlington to have facilities that support families with dogs with a variety of needs, whether that is doggy daycare, boarding, or walkers. For us personally, we are looking for daycare for our dog's high energy needs and continued training over his life.

While we have recently started working with StrutnPup after the birth of our son, they come highly recommended from the Arlington dog community over and over again (just check out the FB page A-Dog Owners of Arlington!). Allowing changes to Arlington's zoning laws in industrial areas will continue to support Arlington's family centric community and small businesses for years to come. We support changes to the zoning laws to allow for doggy daycare in industrial zones and hope we have your support too! Thank you for your time.

Best,
Debbie (and Rory)

Letter to the Town Hall – Arlington, MA – May 3, 2023

Hi Daria,

I wish you all the luck in the world tonight. Arlington has a need for a new daycare for dogs and strut n pup is one of the most thoughtful and caring dog walking company's around. Arlington will benefit so much for allowing you to open and I hope the make the right choice here to approve the daycare.

Best regards,
Jeanne (and Millie!)

Dear Fellow Arlingtonians (or to Whom it May Concern)

Please consider this email one of heartfelt support for Daria Pannesi and her quest to bring a Doggy Daycare Facility to Arlington. I'm proud to not only be a client of Daria's, but also to consider her family, because that's how she treats both her clients and her staff, like family.

She's smart, open-minded, experienced, flexible, knowledgeable, and well-intentioned. This business of hers is first and foremost a passion project; and it shows in everything she does, and the soul she pours into it every day. Arlington should have more small business owners like Daria. She's a member of our own community with an already thriving business; it only makes sense she should continue to grow her business here in the town where it all started.

Please consider changing the laws and accept her "puposal", it will only benefit our local pet owners.

Sincerely yours,
Britt DeLorme (and Charley lover of Daria, naps, snacks, Judge and Jury of all living things.)
Arlington Resident
Sagittarius
Dog-Lover

We support changing the zoning laws in Arlington to allow for doggy daycare space in an Industrial Zone. Arlington needs daycare and boarding services and StrutNPup has a proven track record of great care for dogs in our community.

Tracie DeGuglielmo (and Evie)
Arlington

Hi Daria,

I want to pass along my overwhelming support to change the zoning laws so that Strut n Pup can open a doggy daycare facility. Our dog, Baxter, is truly a part of our family and you have always treated him as part of yours. We know whenever we use your services he will receive the best care possible. To have the opportunity to utilize your doggy daycare or boarding services would be amazing. We recommend you to everyone we know that has a dog in Arlington, and our town needs more small businesses like yours. Please pass this along to whom it may concern, and know that you have our full and overwhelming support.

All the best,
Andrew Kay (and Baxter)
Arlington

Hi Daria,

Just checking my personal email for the day and saw this. It would be so wonderful if you could do this. I'm know that he community could use it and no one is better for this than strut n pup. Best of luck tonight!

Hugs,

Kristin Bjork (and Maggie & Kirby)
Lexington

Letter to the Town Hall – Arlington, MA – May 3, 2023

Hello,

I support the appeal of Article 31 and encourage the Arlington zoning board to permit Daria Pannesi and her company StrutNPup to open the doggie daycare and boarding facility in Arlington.

We have known Daria and her team for a year and are so impressed with their professionalism and commitment to training well behaved dogs who are beloved family members and who peacefully coexist in family friendly neighborhoods.

Daria's passion to deliver excellent service and build a successful company for her clients and community is evident in your first conversation with her.

If she is allowed to move forward and expand her existing business, I assure you that her business will greatly benefit the Arlington community and she will also give back however she can to further enrich it.

Please support the appeal.

Kindly,
Karla Buhsmmer (and Cody & Star)
Lexington

To whom it may concern,

This is in support of making changes in Article 31 allowing for zoning for a business like StrutnPup to open a doggy day care.

StrutnPup provides a vital service for members of the Arlington community with furry family members. It allows us to work and earn gainfully to be able to live in and contribute to our town, all the while knowing that our beloved pets are receiving the expert and personalized care and attention they deserve while we work.

StrutnPup is one of the most important businesses that we rely upon in Arlington and contributes to our sense of community here. I know we are not alone in valuing their contribution to the town and we would love to see the town support them in their quest to expand their excellent and anticipated services!

Thank you,

Carol Cohen and Bobby Earle O'Brien (and Ezzie & Judy)
256 Renfrew Street
Arlington

I hope it's not too late to send our support of a dog daycare in Arlington. This would be a much appreciated service.

Thanks
Mackenzie and Greg (and Aubrey)
Arlington